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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00
STR-04 (ISO) W
----------130459Z 090563 /11
R 111845Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4643
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0982

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GY
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION ISSUES CONDITIONS FOR UNITY; JAGAN ATTACKS GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0942, (B) GEORGETOWN 0668

SUMMARY: IN APPARENT EFFORT TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT OF RESTLESS WORKERS IN PREPARATION FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THE OPPOSITION PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) HAS ISSUED 20-POINT DEMAND STATING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH NATIONAL UNITY CAN BE ACHIEVED. ALTHOUGH SOME POINTS REMAIN SAME AS THOSE SET FORTH WHEN PPP ADOPTED CRITICAL SUPPORT LINE LAST YEAR, OTHERS REFLECT NEW EMPHASIS ON PROBLEMS OF WORKING PEOPLE AS RESULT OF ECONOMIC SITUATION. MEANWHILE, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CHRONICLE HAS ALLEGED THAT PPP LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN OPENED ELECTION CAMPAIGN WITH SCATHING ATTACKS ON GOG DURING HIS VISIT TO US. END SUMMARY.
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1. PPP MIRROR OF MAY 5 PUBLISHED LIST OF 20 DEMANDS WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD SUPPOSEDLY FORGE NATIONAL UNITY AND LAY FOUNDATION FOR SOCIALISM IN GUYANA. SOME POINTS--NOTED BY AMPERSAND--ARE SAME AS THOSE SET FORTH WHEN PPP ADOPTED CRITICAL SUPPORT LINE, BUT OTHERS INDICATE NEW EMPHASIS ON PROBLEMS OF WORKING

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CLASS AND TAKE UP HARD-HITTING CHALLENGES TO GOVERNMENT MADE BY RAM KARRAN IN MAY DAY SPEECH (REF A).

2. POINTS INCLUDE:
--RESPECT FOR FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND SAFEGUARDS FOR FREE ELECTIONS.
--END TO DISCRIMINATION AND INTRODUCTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LEGISLATION.
--ENACTMENT OF INTEGRITY LEGISLATION AND APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL WATCHDOG COMMITTEES TO END CORRUPTION AND "SQUANDERMANIA".
--RESTORATION OF SUBSIDIES AND NEW HIRE PURCHASE LEGISLATION.
--INTRODUCTION OF FREE MEDICAL SERVICES AND OTHER IMPROVED WELFARE BENEFITS FOR WORKERS.
--ENACTMENT OF NEW MINIMUM WAGE LAW.
--REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF.
--WORKERS CONTROL IN ALL PUBLIC CORPORATIONS.
--DISCONTINUANCE OF USE OF POLICE AND TROOPS TO BREAK STRIKES.
--NATIONALIZATION OF FOREIGN BANKS.
--CENTRALLY PLANNED PROPORTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMY WITH EQUAL EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.
--ACCELERATION OF HOUSING PROGRAM FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES.
--CONTROL OF SUGAR INDUSTRY WELFARE FUND BY UNIONS IN SUGAR INDUSTRY.
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3. CHRONICLE OF MAY 8 REPORTED THAT PPP LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN APPARENTLY OPENED HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN THE US THROUGH ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT MADE IN PUBLIC LECTURES. ALLEGEDLY IN SPEECH AT MANHATTAN BOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN NEW YORK JAGAN EXAGGERATED SERIOUSNESS OF ECONOMIC SITUATION HERE AND SHOWED FILMS ON 1968 AND 1973 ELECTIONS. JAGAN REPORTEDLY IMPLIED THAT CORRUPTION IS RAMPANT IN GUYANA. CHRONICLE INDICATED THAT JAGAN WAS SCHEDULED TO GIVE AT LEAST SIX LECTURES WHILE IN US (REF B).

4. COMMENT: THERE WERE SOME NOTABLE OMISSIONS FROM THE LIST OF DEMANDS SUCH AS ANY REFERENCE TO THE SUGAR LEVY OR TO PROSECUTION OF RAMPERSAUD. DEMANDS REFLECT ISSUES SUCH AS DISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS THAT PPP HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON DURING PAST THREE MONTHS, BUT MOST OF POINTS CENTER ON PLIGHT OF WORKERS. CONSIDERED TOGETHER WITH INCREASING COOPERATION

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AND MILITANCY OF PREDOMINANTLY BLACK AND EAST INDIAN
UNIONS, THIS IS ANOTHER SIGN THAT BASIS IS BEING LAID
FOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LABOR AND GOVERNMENT.
HOWEVER, CRUCIAL QUESTION REMAINS AS TO WHETHER PPP
AND MILITANT BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS CAN OVERCOME
DEEPLY-ROOTED RACIAL ANTAGONISMS TO FORGE OPPOSITION
FRONT.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Reference: 77 GEORGETOWN 942, 77 GEORGETOWN 668
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